



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3C
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS • CLEVELAND PARK
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Single Member District Commissioners

01-Lee Brian Reba; 02-Jason Fink; 03-Janell Pagats
04-Beau Finley; 05-Sauleh Siddiqui; 06-Adam Hoyt
07- Maureen Kinlan Boucher; 08-Jocelyn Dyer; 09-Nancy MacWood

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November 14, 2022

The Honorable Muriel Bowser
Mayor, District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 406
Washington, DC 20004

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, District of Columbia Council
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20004

The Honorable Mary Cheh
Councilmember, Ward 3
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 108
Washington, DC 20004

Mr. Keith A. Anderson
Director
District of Columbia Department of General Services
2000 14th Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20009

Mr. Paul Kihn
Deputy Mayor for Education
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 307
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Dr. Louis Ferebee
Chancellor
District of Columbia Public Schools
1200 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20002
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Re: Investigation of the Opportunity to Lease or Purchase of
the Whittle School Campus Located at 3400 International Drive, NW

Mayor Bowser, Chairman Mendelson, Councilmember Cheh, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Kihn, and Dr. Ferebee:

At its regularly scheduled and publicly noticed monthly meeting on November 14, 2022, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C voted to send this letter requesting that the District of Columbia Government investigate the opportunity to lease or purchase the Whittle School campus which is located at 3400 International Drive NW.

For many years, advocates for education have argued that an additional high school is needed to relieve overcrowding at Ward 3's Jackson-Reed High School (formerly Woodrow Wilson High School). The District of Columbia's purchase of the former Georgetown Day School campus located on MacArthur Boulevard NW, has presented an opportunity for that location to be used as a public high school, however, the lack of public transportation along MacArthur Boulevard may prove that the former Georgetown Day School campus is not ideal for a high school. Whether or not a public high school is built on the former Georgetown Day School campus, it is likely that more high schools will need to be built in the District of Columbia in the coming years, which is why Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D presents this request.

On May 25, 2022, The Washington Post published an article entitled, "This Pricey School Promised a Global Education. It's Barely Solvent," found at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2022/05/25/whittle-school-dc-china-money/>. This article alleges that The Whittle School, located at 3400 International Drive NW, is an "educational start-up that has struggled to live up to grand promises." The article further alleges that

Uncertainty hangs over the Whittle School nearly three years after it opened in Northwest Washington with about 185 students in tandem with a sister campus in China. It now enrolls fewer than 130 in a cavernous building on Connecticut Avenue that was once envisioned as a futuristic campus for more than 2,000 students from prekindergarten through high school, including boarders.

On July 8, 2022, The Washington Post published an article entitled, "Whittle Suspends Operations at D.C. School After Financial Problems," found at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2022/07/08/whittle-school-dc-closure/>. This article alleges that the Whittle School is now closed.

From all accounts, the Whittle School campus is in "move-in" condition, is architecturally appealing and is designed for high school purposes. Moreover, its location along Connecticut Avenue is two blocks from the Van Ness-UDC Red Line Metro Stop and provides ample opportunity for students to easily take public transportation to this campus from all parts of the District of Columbia.

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C believes that the closure of the Whittle School presents an opportunity for the District of Columbia Public Schools to discuss with Whittle School officials and with the owner of the campus, "SL 4000 Connecticut LLC," whether a lease or purchase by the District of Columbia of this campus may be beneficial to District of Columbia citizens, the Whittle School and the owner of the campus.

For these reasons, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C requests that the District of Columbia Public Schools investigate the opportunity to lease or purchase the Whittle School campus which is located at 3400 International Drive NW.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beau Finley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'B' and 'F'.

Beau Finley
Chair, on November 14, 2022

This resolution was approved on the consent agenda on November 14, 2022, at a scheduled and noticed public meeting of ANC 3C at which a quorum (a minimum of 5 of 9 commissioners) was present.